

SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 197

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE; REQUIRING THAT HEALTH INSURANCE
POLICIES INCLUDE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 22 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM
SPECTRUM DISORDER.--

A. An individual or group health insurance policy,
health care plan, certificate of health insurance or managed
health care plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state
shall include full coverage for the prevention, early
detection, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.
This coverage shall be a basic health care benefit and shall
entitle each individual to the medically accepted standard of

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underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 medical care and treatment for autism spectrum disorder,
2 including skill-building therapies, speech therapy,
3 occupational therapy and social skills development therapy.

4 B. The provisions of this section shall not apply
5 to short-term travel, accident-only or limited or specified
6 disease policies.

7 C. Coverage for individuals with autism spectrum
8 disorder may be subject to deductibles and coinsurance
9 consistent with those imposed on other benefits under the same
10 contract, as long as the annual deductibles or coinsurance for
11 benefits are no greater than the annual deductibles or
12 coinsurance established for similar benefits within a given
13 contract.

14 D. For purposes of this section, "autism spectrum
15 disorder" means a neurobiological condition that includes
16 autistic disorder, Asperger disorder or pervasive developmental
17 disorder not otherwise specified."

18 Section 2. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 23 NMSA
19 1978 is enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM
21 SPECTRUM DISORDER.--

22 A. A blanket or group health insurance policy,
23 health care plan, certificate of health insurance or managed
24 health care plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state
25 shall include full coverage for the prevention, early

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1 detection, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.
 2 This coverage shall be a basic health care benefit and shall
 3 entitle each individual to the medically accepted standard of
 4 medical care and treatment for autism spectrum disorder,
 5 including skill-building therapies, speech therapy,
 6 occupational therapy and social skills development therapy.

7 B. The provisions of this section shall not apply
 8 to short-term travel, accident-only or limited or specified
 9 disease policies.

10 C. Coverage for individuals with autism spectrum
 11 disorder may be subject to deductibles and coinsurance
 12 consistent with those imposed on other benefits under the same
 13 contract, as long as the annual deductibles or coinsurance for
 14 benefits are no greater than the annual deductibles or
 15 coinsurance established for similar benefits within a given
 16 contract.

17 D. For purposes of this section, "autism spectrum
 18 disorder" means a neurobiological condition that includes
 19 autistic disorder, Asperger disorder or pervasive developmental
 20 disorder not otherwise specified."

21 Section 3. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 46 NMSA
 22 1978 is enacted to read:

23 "[NEW MATERIAL] COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM
 24 SPECTRUM DISORDER.--

25 A. An individual or group health maintenance

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1 organization contract delivered or issued for delivery in this
2 state shall include full coverage for the prevention, early
3 detection, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.
4 This coverage shall be a basic health care benefit and shall
5 entitle each individual to the medically accepted standard of
6 medical care and treatment for autism spectrum disorder,
7 including skill-building therapies, speech therapy,
8 occupational therapy and social skills development therapy.

9 B. Coverage for individuals with autism spectrum
10 disorder may be subject to deductibles and coinsurance
11 consistent with those imposed on other benefits under the same
12 contract, as long as the annual deductibles or coinsurance for
13 benefits are no greater than the annual deductibles or
14 coinsurance established for similar benefits within a given
15 contract.

16 C. For purposes of this section, "autism spectrum
17 disorder" means a neurobiological condition that includes
18 autistic disorder, Asperger disorder or pervasive developmental
19 disorder not otherwise specified."

20 Section 4. A new section of Chapter 59A, Article 47 NMSA
21 1978 is enacted to read:

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM
23 SPECTRUM DISORDER.--

24 A. An individual or group health insurance policy,
25 health care plan or certificate of health insurance delivered

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1 or issued for delivery in this state shall include full
2 coverage for the prevention, early detection, diagnosis and
3 treatment of autism spectrum disorder. This coverage shall be
4 a basic health care benefit and shall entitle each individual
5 to the medically accepted standard of medical care and
6 treatment for autism spectrum disorder, including skill-
7 building therapies, speech therapy, occupational therapy and
8 social skills development therapy.

9 B. The provisions of this section shall not apply
10 to short-term travel, accident-only or limited or specified
11 disease policies.

12 C. Coverage for individuals with autism spectrum
13 disorder may be subject to deductibles and coinsurance
14 consistent with those imposed on other benefits under the same
15 contract, as long as the annual deductibles or coinsurance for
16 benefits are no greater than the annual deductibles or
17 coinsurance established for similar benefits within a given
18 contract.

19 D. For purposes of this section, "autism spectrum
20 disorder" means a neurobiological condition that includes
21 autistic disorder, Asperger disorder or pervasive developmental
22 disorder not otherwise specified."